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FLOOR DEBATE

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enrolled over the 10-year period had this level between 185 and 225 percent of poverty. And, anyway, apparently ultimately two to three women a year needed further treatment and the average cost of estimated treatment was \$1,350. And my concern is that I think that with a bit of modification, which the department has expressed a willingness to do, we can enhance this form enough that there's some verification of the fact that they actually do have this level of information, but I don't think it's going to cost the state a great deal of money, based upon the historical information that we have.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The process you describe, Senator, is confusing to me in the sense that you seem to anticipate more information at the very front end, so that everybody who is being screened would be giving more information, and my concern was not that more information would be given at the front end, necessarily, because I don't...I don't personally feel any concern with respect to the screening process in and of itself. But it just seemed to me that if we're going to assume that with respect to significant treatment items that if it were Medicaid or any other government program that there would be a certain process that would be gone through with respect to determining financial eligibility; that that process should also similarly apply in this case to those folks who were to, potentially, to benefit from treatment as opposed to simply screening. Would that make sense?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yeah, I...the basic way that this all starts, every person that is going to be evaluated under this is...fills out the same form, so there isn't any separate verification following this initial form and it's...it's then keyed in and the form will tell whether the person qualifies. But the department has indicated that they would be willing to enhance this form so there's some verification of the fact that they do qualify. Right now they...what they do generally is they'll ask for either W2 forms or an income tax return form or something to verify what their situation is, and they can enhance that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, thank you very much, Senator.